

M: 13-43

William and Rachel Mason House  
Clarksburg Vicinity  
Private

C. 1922

This once handsome two story frame house with hipped roof was the home of a prominent landowning Black family in the Clarksburg community. It has a facade of three bays, arranged in the typical pattern of bilateral symmetry, and is one bay in depth. A one story ell extends from the rear length. The house was among the most impressive in appearance of Black families in upper western Montgomery County.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

William and Rachel Mason House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Route 355

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

No

**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Abandoned

NAME

J.H. and C.E. McArthur

Telephone #: Not Listed

STREET &amp; NUMBER

703 7305 Damascus Road

CITY, TOWN

Gaithersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20760

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 4574

Folio #: 440

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:13-43

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This large, abandoned house stands at the end of a long drive on the west side of Route 355. In front of it is the recreation center for the Clarksburg community, and next to the house and behind it are new suburban homes of contemporary designs. On either side of the front length are large, lovely shade trees. Though the house has been seriously vandalized and is forlorn in appearance now, its imposing design shows that it was an impressive house when it was built and lived in.

The house is a two story frame dwelling, consisting of two blocks, both original to construction. The principal block is the front section, facing east toward Route 355. It has a front length of three bays, arranged in bilateral symmetry. Over the front door there was a cantilevered shed roof. The frame today is completely covered with asbestos shingles, but in earlier days there were weatherboards. The openings were accented with green trim of a simple design, and the eaves and plain verge boards were also painted green. This front section was covered with a hipped roof. Behind this block was a one story L, which probably served as kitchen. On its south side was a shed porch.

The frame was completely made of manufactured materials, which were attached by wire nails.

In floor plan, the front block contained two rooms down and two up. An enclosed stairway was located between the two rooms, and underneath the stairs was a closet, a customary location for a closet in these houses built before wall closets became commonplace. Brick stove flues ascended each gable end. They were framed in, and lathed and plastered over, another touch giving this house more style than most. The windows had the hung sashes with two over two lights.

Though the house is in derelict condition today, it is evident from its contents -- many of which are modern, such as the presence of insulating material in the wall and ceilings -- that this house had been well maintained before it was abandoned.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☐ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☒ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☒ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☒ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER (SPECIFY)

*Black History*

## SPECIFIC DATES

*c. 1922*

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the deed, 320/154, this property of 0.75 acres was purchased by James and Rachel Mason in 1922 from George and Lucy Gibbs. The house was probably built at that time. The Gibbsses had received the land from Lloyd Gibbs and his wife, who were probably their parents. This tract was a small portion of the 24 acres that Lloyd Gibbs bought in 1884 (EBP 32/409).

The Mason family was important in the Clarksburg community. Ethel Foreman, who was raised in Clarksburg, recalls:

"William and Rachel Mason lived in this home for many years. They were the parents of 6 children. Rachel Mason died February 1946, and William Mason in 1956. The teachers who taught at the Clarksburg Black school made their home with the Mason family for many years. They paid room and board. The black school was located where the Clarksburg recreation center now stands (in front of the house). It was very convenient for the teachers. There are 2 sons -- John Mason, Rev. Sherman Mason, and 2 daughters -- Irene Daye and Matilda Gray -- surviving, and 1 deceased son and 1 deceased daughter. During the 1940s the family sold some of their land to James Green next door. The home itself was occupied with members of the family until about 5 years ago. They had problems with Environmental Protection about facilities. It was sold later".

The house is among the largest owned by a Black family in upper western Montgomery County

William and Maurice Mason were brothers. Maurice's house has also been surveyed, M-13-10-9. This is another example of the network of extended families in the Clarksburg community, other families being the Wims, and Hackeys. This pattern of extended families in Black communities has also been found in Big Woods, Jerusalem, Jonesville, and Sugarland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1) Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
- 2) Written recollection of Ethel Foreman, Clarksburg, Md., Dec. 78

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor; Karen Sewell, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

Jan. 79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
 Box 87, Clarksburg, MD 21713  
 Dickerson, MD 21041  
 (301) 911-4317



William & Rachel Mason House

N. E. elevation

13-43  
M - ~~13-10-10~~

Clarkburg

12/78

Gum

1-21134 #12





William & Rachel Mason

S. W. elevation

13-43  
m- ~~12-10-20~~

Clarksburg, Md.

12178 gum

#1 # 42112-1